Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0006] with the following amended paragraph:

The DS-cathode used in the above-described method is, for example, a DS-cathode using Pd black ultrafine particles (see WO95/35574) or a DS-cathode using metal nanoparticles ~~(see Japanese Laid-Open Publication No. 2002-105609)~~.

Please replace paragraph [0037] with the following amended paragraph:

The metal nano-ultrafine particle can be produced using a method of oxidizing an amorphous alloy. For example, $Zr0_2 \cdot Pd$ having an average diameter of about 5 nm can be produced by oxidizing an amorphous alloy $Zr_{65} \cdot Pd_{35}$. The details of the method are described in Japanese Laid-Open Publication No. 2002-105609. As set forth in claim 4 of Japanese Laid-Open Publication No. 2002-105609,

> "A melt bath of a precursor alloy manufactured by melting is rapidly solidified at a cooling speed of 10^4K/s or more so as to obtain an amorphous alloy, then a thermal oxidation is performed on it in the atmosphere or an oxygen atmosphere at a temperature of 250 to 300°C."

As set forth in paragraph [0001] and claim 1 of Japanese Laid-Open Publication No. 2002-105609,

> "The metal nano-ultrafine particle can use as a precursor an amorphous Zr-Pd alloy or an alloy having at least one species of Pt, Au, Fe, Co and Ni added thereto, and can an atom% represented by the composition formula: $Zr_{100-a-b}Pd_aM_b$, where $15 \leq a \leq 40$, $0 \leq b \leq 10$, and M is at least one species of Pt, Au, Fe, Co and Ni."

Alternatively, the metal nano-ultrafine particle can be prepared using a vapor deposition method. The details of the method are described in "Materials Transaction, JIM, Vol. 35" (described above).